

Mashpee

National Wildlife Refuge

Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D)
Senator John F. Kerry (D)
Rep. William D. Delahunt (D-10th)

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Purpose

Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge was established to preserve and protect natural resources. The refuge is associated with the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve area for the protection of waterfowl and wildlife.

Public Use Notes

- Partners regulate public use activities on their lands.
- Federal lands are currently closed to all public uses.

Management Activities

- Providing feeding, resting and nesting habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, osprey and a variety of other migratory birds
- Working cooperatively with partner groups to manage the entire Mashpee Refuge
- Working with partners to determine the presence of New England cottontail on the refuge

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Osprey in nest

Highlights

A partnership of landowners jointly manages the refuge: Massachusetts Conservation and Recreation Department and Department of Fish and Game, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the towns of Mashpee and Falmouth, the Falmouth Rod and Gun Club, the Orenda Wildlife Land Trust and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Each partner manages their lands for the benefit of wildlife resources.

Habitats include salt marshes, pine barrens, cranberry bogs, Atlantic white cedar swamps, freshwater marshes and a state-certified vernal pool.

Refuge staff are working with partners to establish a nature trail on the refuge

Issues

Refuge partners want more of a Service presence and more federal land acquisition.

Recommendations to install gates on some refuge roads could be controversial.

Some management partners are concerned about the impact on the refuge of Federal recognition of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

